

COUNTRY Eastern Germany Approved For Release 2003/08/12 : CIA-RDP82-00457R014400140006-5

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TOPIC Barth Firing Range

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EVALUATION                     PLACE OBTAINED                     

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DATE OF CONTENT 4 to 14 August 1952

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DATE OBTAINED                     DATE PREPARED 23 September 1952REFERENCES                     PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)                     REMARKS                       
                      
                      
                    

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1. Between 12:35 and 2:50 p.m. on 4 August 1952, MiG-15s with auxiliary fuel tanks fired at ground targets at Barth airfield. \* Aircraft observed over the field included 1 MiG-15 between 12:35 and 12:50 p.m., 2 MiG-15s between 1:10 and 1:40 p.m., 2 MiG-15s between 2 and 2:20 p.m., and 2 MiG-15s between 2:25 and 2:50 p.m. The auxiliary fuel tanks which were fitted almost under the mid-wing, and parallel to the fuselage, projected slightly beyond the leading edges of the wings. The space between the wings and the auxiliary fuel tanks seemed to be very small. [ ] observed that the aircraft with auxiliary fuel tanks remained aloft for an unusually long period. Each plane attacked the target 6 to 8 times. After the attack, the planes crossed the field boundary before climbing, contrary to the planes without auxiliary fuel tanks. \*\* Only the first plane which approached the target zoomed at a steep angle when reaching the field boundary. Firing was practiced with machine guns. \*\*\* The planes apparently hit the target. 25X1
2. Up to 9 August, there was no more firing. The cloud base was low and there were rain showers. At 9:40 a.m. on 9 August, simulated attacks on ground targets were started again by MiG-15s without auxiliary fuel tanks. These planes seemed to be more maneuverable than those with auxiliary fuel tanks. Immediately after the attack, they zoomed again, from an altitude of about 300 meters. On this day, firing with aircraft cannons was performed several times, one round being fired at each attack.
3. On 12 August, formations of four aircraft without auxiliary fuel tanks attacked the target at short intervals. Formation flying was performed very poorly; the planes flew at large distances. Between 11:15 a.m. and 3:15 p.m., 24 aircraft were observed over the target, each formation attacking two or three times. The planes approached from an altitude of about 1,000 meters and fired from a height of 300 to 400 meters. They pulled out of dive at 200 to 300 meters.

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\* [ ] Comment. Barth firing range is being used by the two fighter regiments stationed at Puetznitz airfield.

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\*\* Comment. The fact that the MiG-15s with auxiliary fuel tanks climbed later than those without auxiliary fuel tanks may be explained by the effect of acceleration forces acting on the suspension of the auxiliary fuel tanks. A sudden climb after pulling out of the dive would probably cause damage to the suspension device.

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\*\*\* Comment. the aircraft fired with machine guns proves the high rate of fire of the 20-mm cannon. The 37-mm guns probably fired only one round for training purposes. It is believed that several rounds can actually be fired during a gliding attack which has a length of about 200 meters.

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